



Palestine Exploration Quarterly

ISSN: 0031-0328 (Print) 1743-1301 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ypeq20>

"The Upper Watercourse of Giron."

Andrew J. Gregg

To cite this article: Andrew J. Gregg (1899) "The Upper Watercourse of Giron.", Palestine Exploration Quarterly, 31:1, 64-64, DOI: [10.1179/peq.1899.31.1.64](https://doi.org/10.1179/peq.1899.31.1.64)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/peq.1899.31.1.64>



Published online: 20 Nov 2013.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 5



View related articles [↗](#)

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?journalCode=ypeq20>

“THE UPPER WATERCOURSE OF GIHON.”

By the Rev. ANDREW J. GREGG.

IMMEDIATELY behind the wooden hut on the Jaffa road, near to the Jerusalem side of the turn to St. John's ('Ain Kârim), where toll is taken from the fellaheen for country produce, is a telegraph pole supporting the wire to Jaffa. This pole is at the entrance of a small sunk stone enclosure, about 12 feet across, and surrounded partly with solid rocks. At the opposite side of the enclosure is a small excavation in the rock, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 4 feet in, and 3 feet high, the bottom being filled with clay and stones. The hill west of this is very fertile, covered with rich olives, and abounds in tesseræ, and the occupants of the wooden hut say that this enclosure contains water. From this, which I think is a natural spring, I can distinctly trace cuttings through the rock on the west side of the road towards Jerusalem, as though for the construction of an aqueduct, as far as the low part of the road which forms the watershed between the Kedron Valley and the Valley of the Convent of the Cross. At this place a low embankment runs along the east side of the road, which looks like a substructure to supplement the elevation of the ground along the very summit of the watershed, and after carefully trying the level from the opposite side of the Kedron Valley, under Shnellers School, and noting the places in which to look further on behind the Turkish Hospital and the Sanatorium, I found in a quarry of very white stone the distinct marks of water wear about 3 feet from the surface of the rock and at the required level; the rock being covered with made rubbish of earth and stones, and where the exposed rock face ends, an interval of clay apparently filling in the continuation of the clue. Farther on still, at the back of the new Sanatorium, the rocks are cut away at the required level (the ground rising towards the Sanatorium) for a considerable distance in a straight line, and when the back of the old Sanatorium is reached the line takes a curve round to west (following the contour of the ground, which here falls a little before it rises again at the Turkish Mosque), and goes towards, and nearly to, the wall at the back of the central building of the new English hospital; a very old cistern being partly to be seen just where the traces of the channel end. This is, I think, within a stone's throw of the place where the last traces of the channel from the north-west corner of the present city were seen,¹ and I satisfied myself again with the level that there was a fall all the way from the watershed on the Jaffa road before venturing to give expression to the assertion that this is the long-sought-for “Upper Watercourse of Gihon.” And though a “fountain of Gihon” is not particularised in Scripture among the “fountains without the city which Hezekiah stopped”; that the hollow and excavation behind the wooden hut on the Jaffa road is the fountain which yielded the supply.

¹ *Quarterly Statement*, 1891, p. 279.